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Administrator,

Next week Jennifer will convene a meeting of the Science and Technology Policy Council. Topics on the agenda include the draft Citizen Science Workgroup charge, Risk Assessment Forum Cumulative Risk Assessment Projects, updates on the Science Transparency Rule, Lead activities and the Contaminants of Emerging Concern project. In addition, next week ORD will announce the winners of the Wildland Fire Sensors Challenge at the Air Sensors International Conference in Region 9.

Hot issues

New Hampshire PFAS reports and meeting

On September 10 and 11, ORD staff will travel to New Hampshire to meet with New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services (NHDES) and EPA Region 1 to discuss the results of ORD's analyses of PFAS in samples collected by NHDES in a variety of media. ORD will provide two new reports to NHDES: the results of targeted PFAS analyses of water samples and the results of PFAS analyses of air related samples. These will be the third and fourth PFAS reports that ORD has delivered to NHDES. The meeting will include discussions of these reports, results from targeted and non-targeted analyses that have already been provided to NHDES and plans for future analyses of PFAS in samples that have been provided by NHDES but not yet analyzed by ORD.

ORD Technical Assistance to Region 3, OW, and Pennsylvania for drinking water resilience and corrosion control in Pittsburgh

ORD met with staff from Region 3 and OW on September 4 to discuss follow-up from the meeting with the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection (PA DEP) and Pittsburgh Water and Sewer Authority (PWSA) in August. During that meeting, PA DEP and PWSA requested technical assistance from EPA on water infrastructure resilience, distribution system water quality, and corrosion control. ORD will follow up with PWSA on resilience and corrosion control.

ORD Engagement with National Emergency Management Association

This week, ORD will hold a meet and greet with National Emergency Management Association's (NEMA) President, Mike Sprayberry, who is also Director of North Carolina Emergency Management and Deputy Homeland Security Advisor. NEMA is the professional association of and for emergency management directors from all 50 states, eight U.S. territories, and DC, and provides national leadership and expertise in comprehensive emergency management. NEMA operates several committees including the Response and Recovery and the Homeland Security Committees that we hope to connect with this fall. ORD has developed successful ongoing engagements with state environmental agencies through interactions with Environmental Council of the State (ECOS) and Environmental Research Institute of the States (ERIS). However, often these organizations do not represent state-level emergency management agencies. ORD is developing relationships with state emergency response agencies through the Association of State and Territorial Health

Officials (ASTHO), the Association of Public Health Laboratories (APHL), National Environmental Health Association (NEHA), National Association of County and City Health Officials (NACCHO), and moving forward, through NEMA.

Upcoming Major Decisions and events

Richard Yamada Region 7 Visit and Meeting with Iowa.

On September 11, ORD and Region 7 will convene a meeting and field visit to a site in Iowa where farmed wetlands are used to reduce nitrate levels. This meeting will bring together ORD Deputy Assistant Administrator Richard Yamada, ORD and regional management and staff, and representatives from the Agribusiness Association of Iowa, Iowa Department of Natural Resources, Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship, and Iowa State University to discuss Iowa's ongoing research efforts, future research needs and a proposed RARE project on farmed wetlands.

Regional Science and Technology Meeting

September 10-14, myself and ORD staff will participate in the Regional Science and Technology meeting in Chicago, IL. ORD will provide an update on our Regional Science Program activities and co-lead a discussion session with Region 3 about EPA's Memorandum of Understanding with the Association of Public Health Laboratories.

Christopher S. Robbins

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Office of Research and Development

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